



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dahm *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/601,645

Confirmation No.: 7793; Cust. No.24961

Filed: August 4, 2000

For: *METHOD FOR THE QUANTITATIVE
DETERMINATION OF TUMOR CELLS IN
A BODY FLUID AND TEST KITS
SUITABLE THEREOF*

Art Unit: 1634

Examiner: Goldberg, J.A.

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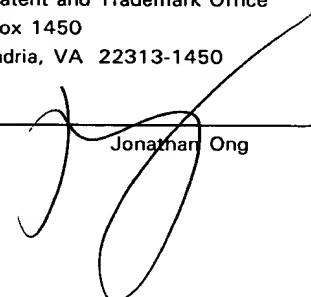
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Jonathan Ong

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action, mailed November 6, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 20, 25, 39-51 and 68 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the claims 71-86 as follows:

71. A method for the quantification of tumor cells in a body fluid, comprising:

(a) concentrating and separating the tumor cells from telomerase-positive non-tumor cells in a sample of a body fluid;

(b) specifically amplifying, from the tumor cells, mRNA coding for the catalytic subunit of telomerase; and

(c) quantitatively determining the amount of amplified nucleic acid, thereby quantifying tumor cells in a body fluid.